

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

VOL. III NO. 25

DECEMBER 10th 1954

Price: 15 Pr., 5 c., 3 d

"No Wehrmacht" Call

ADENAUER LOSES

West German Chancellor Adenauer's Party lost 750,000 votes in the provincial elections held in Bavaria and Hessen, West Germany on November 28th.

In both provinces Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union lost heavily compared to figures in the general election in September 1953.

The Social Democrats and the Communists, who both fought the elections on a policy of opposition to Adenauer's rearmament policy, gained heavily. The percentage of votes cast for the Communist Party in Hessen rose from 2.5% in 1953 to 3.4%; the percentage of total votes cast for the Social Democratic Party rose from 33.7% to 42.6%.

In West Berlin municipal elections on December 5th the Social Democrats won an absolute majority. The Socialist Unity Party received 2.7 % of votes cast despite police terrorisation and the arrest of 1917 election canvassers during the campaign.

Eight States Appeal for Peace

The establishment of a new West German Wehrmacht would be a great danger to the peace of Europe, declared the eight states, including the German Democratic Republic, which met in Moscow from November 29th to December 2nd. The declaration at the end of the conference stated:

"The Governments of the states participating in this conference must draw attention to the fact that putting the Paris Agreement into effect would lead to a serious deterioration of the international situation in Europe. It would raise great obstacles to the solution of the German problem and the restoration of German unity, and would set one part of Germany against the other ...

"The great danger of the reestablishment of a West German army can be seen from the fact that this army would be headed by generals of the former Hitlerite Wehrmacht, who only a short while ago were organisers and participants in the fascist aggressions against the nations of east and west Europe."

The eight states participating in the conference: USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania, suggested the following steps for settling the German problem, the main threat to European security:

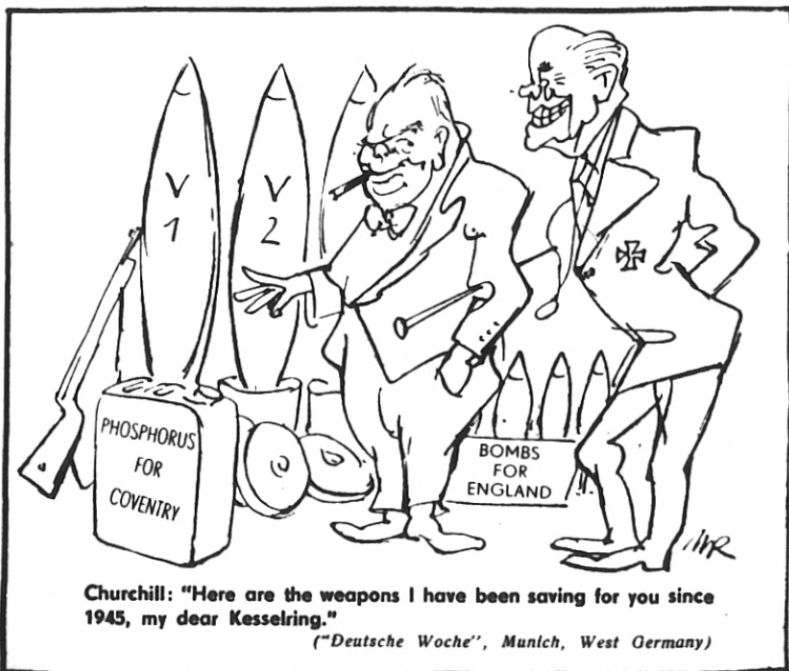
1. Abandonment of plans for remilitarising West Germany.
2. Agreement on the holding of all-German free elections during

1955, and the establishment, as the result of these elections, of an all-German Government.

The joint declaration closed with a warning that if the Paris Agreement was ratified, then the states attending the Moscow Conference would be forced to take joint steps in the organisation of their forces, in order to increase their defensive strength.

"Our peoples wish to live in peace and friendship with all other peoples. That is why we shall continue to defend the cause of peace and general security, and do everything to defend our states and their further peaceful development."

On November 30th, East German Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, addressing the conference, (continued on next page)



Churchill: "Here are the weapons I have been saving for you since 1945, my dear Kesselring."

("Deutsche Woche", Munich, West Germany)

(cont. from front page)

"NO WEHRMACHT" CALL

repeated the readiness of the German Democratic Republic to reach agreement with West Germany.

"We want to discuss in particular the preparation of all-German free democratic elections" Prime Minister Grotewohl stated. "The Government of the German Democratic Republic lays down no preliminary conditions for such discussions. We are ready to discuss the suitability of the Constitution of the Weimar Republic as a preparation for the restoration of German unity."

After dealing with the dangers connected with the establishment of a new West German Wehrmacht, Prime Minister Grotewohl added:

"If militarism is reestablished in West Germany, and a regular army is raised, then the German Democratic Republic will be forced to take counter-steps in the form of national armed forces capable of defending the peaceful achievements of the working people of the Republic."

WEST GERMANY TRIES TO BAN COMMUNISTS

First Two Weeks of Trial

The West German attempt to ban the Communist Party by declaring it unconstitutional opened in Karlsruhe on November 23rd. The West German constitutional Court has to decide upon charges filed by the West German Government charging that the Communist Party (KPD) has committed "inner aggression". The bill of indictment states that the "most serious attack" made by the KPD on the West German Republic was that it arranged the holding of a plebiscite against remilitarisation.

Here is a summary of the first two weeks of the trial:

November 23rd: Defence lawyers protest to court that proper defence has been made impossible since the main leaders of the party are unable to attend the court: Fritz Rische and Jupp Ledwohn are imprisoned awaiting trial on "treason" charges, and warrants on similar charges have been issued for the arrest of Party Chairman Max Reimann and Walter Fisch. Defence lawyer was interrupted when he attempted to read to the court a statement by Max Reimann pointing out that a ban on the Communist Party was inconsistent with all-German free elections, and comparing the case to the witch trials of the middle ages.

Defence moved that the Court President Dr Wintrich should be removed, since he was prejudiced. (For grounds of motion, see "Trial personalities" on this page.) The motion was rejected by the court.

November 24th: The defence protested that not all documents had been made available to the defence by the court. After four hour's discussion behind closed doors the court made three documents available.

November 25th: As a result of defence applications the court was forced to admit that other documents in the case had not yet been made

available to the defence. The court refused to produce these documents.

November 26th: Court President Wintrich refused to hear further defence pleas on the missing documents. State Secretary Ritter von Lex opened the case for the West German Government calling upon the court to:

1. Declare the KPD to be unconstitutional.
2. Dissolve the KPD.
3. To ban all successor bodies.
4. To confiscate all property of the KPD.

Ritter von Lex declared: "The KPD is clearly undemocratic and unconstitutional since it bases itself upon the teachings of Lenin and Stalin."

November 30th: The court rejects all further applications of the defence to consult trial documents, stating that the documents in question "must be kept secret for reasons of state security". Defence Counsel, answering prosecution case, stated: "Prosecution declared that the KPD menaced the security of the West German state. In fact the security of this state is only menaced by the rearmament of German militarism, the worst enemy of European peace. The KPD on the other hand

has always supported a programme of collective security and friendship with the peoples of Europe." During the defence statement prosecution counsel Ritter von Lex repeatedly interrupted and attempted to make court bar the statement.

December 1st: Defence attorney Professor Kroeger, expert in international law, demonstrated to the court that the Potsdam Agreement, which has never been renounced by any of the occupation powers, is the only instrument recognisable under international law upon which the German people can found their claim to sovereignty and reunification. "The policy of the KPD has always been in agreement with the policy laid down in the Potsdam Agreement, and since the principles of the Potsdam Agreement form part of the constitutional order in West Germany, then a party in accord with that agreement can never be classified as unconstitutional".

Prosecution counsel Ritter von Lex demanded that the court recess until December 7th so that he could obtain advice on international law in order to counter Dr Kroeger's arguments.

(The account of the trial of the KPD will be continued in the next number of GERMAN REPORT)

* * *

TRIAL PERSONALITIES

Court President Dr Josef Wintrich. Bavarian lawyer, who served throughout the Nazi period as state prosecutor. In 1940 when he was proposed for promotion to senior prosecutor, the Bavarian branch of the Nazi party certified his "undoubtedly National Socialist attitude".

Government Attorney Hans Ritter von Lex. State Secretary in West German Ministry of the Interior. In March 1933, when he represented the right-wing Bavarian People's Party in the Reichstag, Ritter von Lex voted in favour of the resolution giving full powers to Hitler to abolish the Weimar Constitution. He served as a senior civil servant in the Nazi Ministry of the Interior.

Government Attorney Dr Rudolf Dix. After the Second World War defended many prominent war criminals, including banker Hjalmar Schacht, IG Farben Director Christian Schneider, and industrialist Friedrich Flick.

UNDER THE WEST GERMAN XMAS TREE

Catalogue for Murderers

Here is one typical page from a 52-page catalogue of militarist books issued by the "Schild Buch Dienst", a book agency in Munich, West Germany. The books offered on this page, and the short "blurbs" recommending them, are as follows:

Heinz Guderian "Memoirs of a Soldier"

464 pages. 37 sketch maps and 32 pictures. Linen. 20 Marks. This book of war history by the creator of the German Tank Arm has already become a standard work on modern tank warfare in many countries. It is one of the most important publications arising from the Second World War.

Liddell Hart "Defence of the West"

344 pages. Linen. 15.50 Marks. The British military commentator here supports the thesis that the defence of the west should be prepared not in the illusion of conventional armed form, but in the correct assessment of the future realities of war. Sea power and strategic air power must be the affair of the Anglo-Saxons, and the land forces and the tactical air force must be the concern of the continental Europeans.

Hermann Holter "Army in the Arctic"

67 pages with 3 sketches. Paper. 3.60 Marks.

A sketch of the purpose and the form of the German units on the Lapland front during the years 1941-1945. The author was chief of general staff of the 20th Mountain Army, whose unique movement operation at the time of the Russian-Finnish armistice is treated fully.

Friedrich Hossbach "Battle in East Prussia"

80 pages. Paper. 2.80 Marks.

A war historical description of the battles of the 4th Army in 1944/45. The reader sees the desperate struggle for East Prussia against a hundredfold superiority, and the bitter end.

Dr Walter Hubatsch "The German Occupation of Denmark and Norway 1940"

512 pages. 12 sketches in text, 20 profiles of ships, two large coloured maps of the entire area of operations, a map of Narvik scale 1:100,000 and 16 pictures. Linen. 29.80 Marks. The entire operative planning of the



HEINZ GUDERIAN

Erinnerungen eines Soldaten

464 Seiten • 37 Kartenkizzen und 32 Abbildungen • Ganzleinen • DM 20,-

Das kriegsgeschichtliche Buch des Schöpfers der deutschen Panzerwaffe ist bereits in vielen Ländern der Erde zu einem Standardwerk über die moderne Panzerführung geworden. Es gehört zu den bedeutungsvollsten Veröffentlichungen aus dem zweiten Weltkrieg.

LIDDELL HART

Die Verteidigung des Westens

344 Seiten • Linen • DM 15,50

Der britische Militärschriftsteller hat hier dafür ein, die Verteidigung des Westens nicht in Illusionen überhöhter Wehrformen, sondern in der richtigen Erkenntnis: Auslöser, Kämpfer, wirtschaftliches Vorbereiten, Seemacht und strategische Luftwaffe müssen den Angreifern, Landmacht und technische Luftwaffe des Kontinental-Europäers entgegen.

HERMANN HOLTER

Armee in der Arktis

67 Seiten mit 3 Skizzen • Kart. • DM 3,60

Ein Abriss vom Sinn und Wesen der deutschen Verbände an der Lapplandfront während der Jahre 1941 bis 1944. Der Verfasser war Chef des Generalstabs der 20. Gebirgsmarine, deren sinnvolle Bewegungsverordnungen beim russisch-finnischen Waffenstillstand eingehende Behandlung finden.

FRIEDRICH HOSSBACH

Schlacht um Ostpreußen

80 Seiten • Kart. • DM 2,80

Eine kriegsgeschichtliche Darstellung aus den Reihen der 4. Armee in den Jahren 1944/45. Das verzweifelte Ringen um Ostpreußen gegen die hundertfache Übermacht und das bittere Ende stehen am Leser vorbei.

DR. WALTER HUBATSCH

Die deutsche Besetzung von Dänemark und Norwegen 1940

512 Seiten • 12 Textkizzen, 20 Schiffsentwürfe von Schiffseinheiten, 2 große mehrfarbige Lagekizzen der gesamten Operationsumgebung, eine Norvikkarte • 100.000 und 16 Bildtafeln • Linen • DM 29,80

Mit der Gründlichkeit des Historikers wird hier die gesamte operative Planung der sogenannten "Weserübung" sichtbar gemacht. Die deutsche Absicht, nur eine kampflose Besetzung durchzuführen, vermag der Verfasser eindeutig mit erst 1951 aufgefundenen Dokumenten zu erhärten.

PAUL HAUSSEER

Waffen-SS im Einsatz

276 Seiten nebst Karten und vielen Fotos • Ganzleinen • DM 12,50

Der Senior der Fronttruppenteile der ehemaligen Waffen-SS gibt hier erstmalig einen Überblick über Entstehung und Kampfeinsätze dieser Truppe. Sie findet damit die verdiente Würdigung ihrer großen soldatischen Leistungen.



so-called "Operation Weser" is here revealed with the thoroughness of the historian. The author can clearly confirm the German intention of only carrying out a peaceful occupation, with the aid of documents discovered in 1951.

Paul Hausseer "Waffen-SS in Action"

270 pages with maps and many photos. Linen. 12.50 Marks.

The senior officer of the front-line troops of the former Waffen-SS gives here for the first time a sketch of the creation and the battles of these

troops. It is well-earned praise for their great military exploits.

And here are details of just a few of the other books offered on the other 51 pages of the catalogue:

"Soldierly Existence Tomorrow" by Erich Dethleffsen

A convincing analysis of the German situation, based on German soldiering yesterday and tomorrow. This book shows clearly the spirit and the method to be used in rebuilding troops.

(continued on next page)

Service Manual for the Federal Frontier Troops

G.Dv. 9801. Shooting manual for carbine, pistol, machine pistol and light machine gun, together with instructions on the use of hand grenades.

"The Generals' Road to Sacrifice" by Josef Foltmann

A clear study of the actions and the sacrifices of German generals and admirals in the Second World War. This book counters all hateful and tendentious rumours about the highest officers of the German Wehrmacht, and proves that the German generals "fell at the head of their men" in the best sense of the phrase.

"The Wolves and the Admiral", a novel about U-boats by Wolfgang Frank

The author himself sailed with the U-boat men, and belonged to this group with its incorruptible decency...

"Parachutist — Then and Later" by General H.B. Ramcke

The former general of the parachute troops tells of his fate as com-

mander of the Brest Fortress, war prisoner in the USA, and his path of suffering as alleged "war criminal".

"Those Who Have Fallen"

A memorial book for the soldiers and the women and children who fell at the front and at home. To console the mothers and fathers, to call on the consciences of the men and women, and to serve as a pledge and a pattern for the growing youth.

"General Dietl" by Gerda Luise Dietl

...the honest humanity of this general will live on in the hearts of the German people.

"The Defence of German Soldiers" by Dr Hans Laternser

...This book serves to restore the true regard for German soldierliness, which the allied courts tried to drag in the mud.

"Monsieur Jean" by Erich Borchers

...shows that even in the under-cover war German soldierly action was marked by honour and fairness.

the turning barrel, and all sorts of other fun stalls.

A man was dressed as a polar bear, especially for being photographed with the children so the family could have a souvenir of the Fair. The little ones were frightened of this strange white monster and no amount of coaxing could bring them out from behind mother's protecting skirt. But the older ones shyly and hesitantly sat on its knees and sometimes even managed a smile.

A tour of East Berlin shops showed that the goods were not only available at the Fair. At the big store in Alexanderplatz I found, apart from all the things previously mentioned, Bulgarian hand embroidered blouses and aprons, vases, figures and dishes with national motifs, embroidered evening bags, all at reasonable prices. Beautiful shaving sets were only 15—25 marks. Food, of course, in plenty, with gift baskets containing wine, cheese, Norwegian kippers, biscuits, cigarettes and sweets for 30 marks. I counted 23 different types of sausage.

Downstairs in the book department were books of every variety from old German classics to the latest Soviet novels. Comics, penny dreadfuls, murder and sex books were conspicuous by their absence. That not only Germans appreciate the arts was proven by the presence of three uniformed officers of the British Grenadier Guards, looking at prints of old Italian, French and Spanish masters which could be bought very cheaply.

The newly opened Children's Department Store in Stalinallee is a veritable paradise for the youngsters. Miniature electric trains, small Punch and Judy sets, tiny cars, reindeers and dolls, scooters, tricycles and musical instruments, all at prices within reach of the average pocket.

A band of six mechanical monkeys about two feet high, playing various instruments brought delighted cries from the youngsters. The centre of attraction in the Toy Department was a model village with houses three inches high, and even animals standing out on the field. On the outskirts was a railway track going through tunnels and up and down hills with a real electric train running on the track.

The Town Council has used the money, which under capitalism would be used on advertising, for decorating the city with pine laurels, cardboard Christmas trees and appeals to bring to the whole world, and particularly wartorn disunited Germany, the symbol of Christmas — "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men."

EAST BERLIN CHRISTMAS

By Jane Bell

East Berlin has been full of excitement for the past few weeks. The Christmas season has started and the city is preparing for the festivities. The Christmas Fair opened on Marx-Engels Square on November 28th amidst fireworks and Christmas carols. One hundred thousand people watched rockets shoot into the air, burst, and tiny dolls and bears come floating down under toy parachutes. Despite much shoving and pushing, it was a gay crowd — and with reason.

The Fair was a fairy-tale city, every stall built to look like the witch's gingerbread hut. At one of them I bought the latest kitchen gadgets for a friend. An onion slicer and a potato peeler. Everything from the shops was available here, from underwear to imported liqueurs. Particularly the new season oranges, apples, bananas and coconuts were very popular.

Very suitable for gifts were the tiny glass figures from Thuringia for only 2—4 marks, slippers for 8—12 marks. Underwear was particularly nicelooking and cheap, a whole set costing 17 marks.

All these and more, were available — If you could get through the crowd to the counter. People not only wanted to buy, but they could afford to, and they were buying.

The usual Christmas decorations, figures of angels and Father Christ-

mas, streamers made of pine needles, candles of varying colors, shapes and sizes, shiny colored balls and more, were all there at cheap prices. Between relayed folk songs and carols, the announcer on the loudspeaker asked parents to pick up their lost children under the Christmas tree, 30 yds. high and covered with lights. One hundred thousand Christmas trees are expected to be sold this year in East Berlin alone.

A number of raffles were being held (proceeds to help reconstruction); prizes included 1000 geese and sums up to 10,000 marks.

I joined the crush at the sweets' stall and bought some very nice chocolate covered marzipan hearts. I noticed that while sweets are plentiful, there is not the variety, nor the good quality that exists elsewhere. Confection is still something of a luxury in East Germany as more important things have come first.

The whole atmosphere was a very happy one. Youngsters darted through the crowds, adults slowly followed the stream, laughing at some joke; but most delightful were the 3 and 4 year olds, rugged up from head to foot on the merry-go-round. Some very serious, taking in all these very new experiences. Others laughing delightedly. The adults also enjoyed the many varied slides, and swings, distorted mirrors,

VERSAILLES & THE PARIS AGREEMENT

— The Deadly Parallel

By J. Alvarez del Vayo, Former Foreign Minister of the Spanish Republic

The measures adopted, and to be adopted, to keep German rearmament under effective control are a constant theme in commentaries on the London conference. Apparently no one doubts that the arms control agency to be set up as part of the Brussels treaty organization will be able to keep the massive armament output of the Ruhr within the limits agreed on.

To anyone over forty years old—and the principal authors of the London agreement were grown men by 1918—such optimism is incredible. The story of Germany's secret rearmament in violation of the Versailles treaty, of the complete collapse of the Allied effort to halt the rebirth of German militarism, is a story not from history books but of our own generation.

The very statesmen who today speak so glibly and confidently of "guaranties" and "controls" were only yesterday fulminating against the inadequacy of either to halt the growing German military menace. It is as if the whole period between the two world wars has been expunged from time. There can be only one explanation for this astounding amnesia: the current anti-Communist obsession, the hatred of Russia and the fear of Communist China, has proved stronger than memory or reason.

On this subject I have some personal testimony to offer. Between the two world wars I spent many years in Germany for *La Nacion* of Buenos Aires. My chief interest was in uncovering the maneuvers through which the Germans made a mockery of the disarmament clauses of Versailles. My reports were so full that several large Argentine firms with close business ties to German industry threatened to withdraw their advertising from *La Nacion* unless I was fired. The newspaper refused to bow to the threat, and the advertising was indeed withdrawn.

Versailles allowed the German Republic an army of 100,000 men with limited armaments. The signatures to the treaty were hardly dry before this new Reichswehr became the dominant power in Germany, and the only one capable of restoring the country to Bismarckian eminence.

In those agitated days of the twenties the attention of the press shifted from place to place, from personality to personality, as events followed each other with bewildering rapidity. For myself, nothing diverted my attention from the gray building in Berlin housing the General Staff of the Reichswehr under the leadership of its elegant, monocled chief, General von Seeckt. The General, too, refused to be diverted by events. He was unmoved by the spectacle of workers fighting in the streets; he knew that they were divided among themselves and had been deprived of the leadership which Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, both murdered by reactionaries, might have given them. He was equally unmoved by General von Ludendorff's belated entry on the political scene, because he knew that Ludendorff's only followers were the volunteers of the Kampfbund. The exploits of the right-wing terrorist bands also left him cold.

Von Seeckt knew that in the long run Germany's destiny rested in the General Staff and not in the streets. And this, too, has a lesson for us today. The greatest menace of post-Hitler Germany lies neither in the neo-Nazis nor in the secret military organizations which are the heirs not only of Hitler but of the terrorist bands of the Weimar Republic days. It lies in the future German General Staff, which—despite denials—is already in the process of formation, and whose activities the statesman of London hope piously to contain by paper safeguards.

In the twenties similar safeguards were systematically eluded, even under the watchful eye of Poincaré of France, who did not hesitate to occupy the Ruhr. Von Seeckt looked to the future. The 100,000 men permitted him under Versailles served him as cadres; the system proved so elastic that Hitler had no difficulty putting together a trained army sufficient to resist the Allies, including Russia's massed forces, for five years.

The important thing to von Seeckt was that Versailles gave him the embryo of an army, the numbers mattered little. One of his subordinates, General von Kuhl, wrote openly at the time that Germany

needed only an "initial force" in order to reorganize itself very quickly into a powerful military nation, "Versailles or no Versailles." He added: "Let us have as many horses and trucks as we can get, since the smaller the army the more essential is its mobility." He reminded Germans that any army of 100,000, provided it included an efficient cavalry, "could in certain circumstances play an important role in the East." Today other von Kuhl's are thinking of new German forces, no matter how small and how much under, supposed, international "control", also playing an important role in the East—more specifically, in the reconquest of territories now in the Soviet orbit.

How the French experts, so quickly disillusioned by Versailles must be laughing now at their successors who put so much hope in London! The Germans reconstituted their General Staff as early as 1922. Its "secret" activities were not really secret. The German opposition press constantly reported how tank and aviation specialists were being trained by undercover "sports organizations" financed by the government. Experiments with "prohibited" arms were carried out with the cooperation of foreign branches of German industrial firms. (Today there will be no need for such camouflage; the new German General Staff will have a whole country—Franco's Spain—in which to produce arms "prohibited" by the new control agency.) Even the restrictions on manpower were evaded through the creation of all kinds of "police" forces ostensibly designed to protect the honest bourgeoisie of the cities against the dreaded Reds, but in reality as a means of building huge reserves of trained civilians for the army of the future.

During my Berlin days I witnessed French despair at the way things were going. Then as today Britain frowned upon French "intransigence" in demanding that Germany live up to its international obligations. This time the British will be supported by the Americans, to whom West Germany seems to be the only country, apart from the United States, worthy to take part in the "great crusade."

Anyone who doubts my memory on post-Versailles events can easily consult available copies of original documents, orders, minutes of meetings, memoranda, and diaries, all captured on German soil in the closing days of World War II, and most of them signed by one or more of the principal defendants at the Nürnberg trials. One such document comprises extracts from "The Fight of the Navy Against Versailles," published by the high command of the German navy in 1937 for "restricted" circulation only. I quote from the page of contents:

1. First defensive action against the execution of the Treaty of Versailles (from the end of the war to the occupation of the Ruhr in 1923); saving of coastal guns from destruction; limitation of demolitions in Helgoland Naval Base.

2. Independent armament measures taken behind the back of the Reich Cabinet and Legislature (1923-1927); building up of the air force; preparation for the resurrection of the German U-boat arm; economic rearmament...

3. Planned armament works tolerated by the Reich Cabinet, but behind the back of the Legislature (1928 to the seizure of power [by Hitler]).

4. Rearmament under the leadership of the Reich Cabinet in camouflaged form (1933 to the overthrow of restrictions in 1935).

Naturally, not everyone stands to lose by the rearmament of Germany, least of all the German heavy-industry and financial concerns which were so directly linked with the illegal rearmament of the country after Versailles. Last week M. S. Handler, writing in the New York Times, pointed out that the prospect of West German sovereignty has increased pressure in the Bonn republic for the reconcentration and re-cartelization of banking and the Ruhr industries. Nor will American business suffer. Elliot Janeway, economist and armaments expert, recently told a joint meeting of the Cleveland and Akron chapters of the American Marketing Association that German rearmament would drive the price of scrap steel "to within the range of the O. P. S. selling price of \$ 42 a ton."

In human terms perhaps the saddest aspect of the developments of the last few weeks is the failure of the French Socialists to seize the historic opportunity afforded them by their political confrères in Germany. Instead of aiding the German Socialists and trade unionists in their fight for a democratic Germany, peacefully reunited and free from a General Staff and a Reichswehr certain to lead the world into another war, the French Socialists preferred to use their votes to rescue Chancellor Adenauer. The mounting German opposition to Adenauer's policy, led by the Socialists, would surely have brought about his downfall if he had not been crowned with victory at London.

I had almost forgotten: the new German army, according to an announcement from Bonn, will not be called the Reichswehr, as it was under the Weimar republic, nor yet the Wehrmacht, as it was under Hitler. It will be called the Streitkräfte, or "fighting forces," a name which in German has a less militaristic connotation than either of the others. But to the millions of people in Europe who do not know German, but only Germany, the German army is the German army under whatever name.

(Condensed from "Nation", New York)

Protestants Oppose Remilitarisation

The vicar and the church elders of the Evangelical Church in Hitzkirchen, Hesse, West Germany, have issued an appeal to all Christians in West Germany to join them in fighting remilitarisation.

The appeal, issued in the form of a pamphlet, states:

"The Bonn Government wants to make the citizens of the Federal Republic into soldiers in a West European Wehrmacht, raised in opposition to the Eastern Block, and therefore against the Germans in the East Zone. This is an obstacle to, and serious endangering of, German reunification.

"We appeal to all our brothers and sisters to guard against participation in the planned armament.

"Beware of those who would advise you, in the name of religion, to do armed services and to take up the sword in the sign of the cross. They will bring God's judgement on themselves and upon you.

"To reach agreement, and to live in peace together, it is necessary

that the Governments of the two parts of Germany should speak with each other. It is wrong and dangerous when the Bonn Government refuses to do this. Let us turn our backs on such irreconcilable attitudes, and drive their supporters from our midst."

Indexes to GERMAN REPORT for the years 1952 and 1953 are now available, and an index for 1954 is in preparation. Copies will be sent on request to all subscribers. Single copies of most back issues are also available for readers who wish to complete their sets.

We shall be glad to send a small package of recent issues to any reader who wants them for distribution.

Please address all orders for back numbers and indexes to:

GERMAN REPORT
Friedrich Strasse 167/III
Berlin W 8
GERMANY

More Books

Nearly six books per head of the population were published and sold in East Germany during 1953, statistics released in Berlin disclosed.

In 1951 East Germany published 3919 different titles in editions totalling 70,000,000 copies. By 1953 the number of titles had been increased to 8235, and the total number of books produced to 106,000,000, or 5.9 copies per head of the population. In West Germany only 2.9 books per head of the population were sold in 1953.

"You Escaped Gas Chamber"

People who refused to join in the singing of "Deutschland ueber Alles" at a pro-fascist meeting in the Berlin Sport Palast on November 23rd were beaten by fascist rowdies. The West Berlin newspaper "Kurier" reported that members of the German Party, which staged the meeting, beat up their opponents, "shouting 'traitor', 'Jewish pig', and 'You just managed to escape the gas chambers last time'."

WERE YOU A GESTAPO MAN? DO YOU WANT A PENSION?

— Then Consult this List

Gestapo officials, officers in the nazi administration of the occupied countries of Europe, and other high-ranking nazi officials, are all entitled to draw pensions in West Germany today under the "Law to Article 131 of the Constitution."

Some of these officials have run into difficulties because of the fact that they burnt all their papers in 1945, when they thought that denazification was really being taken seriously. To help them the West German authorities have drawn up a

list of leading officials who worked in the personnel departments of the various nazi ministries, and who are now available to swear that Herr Schmidt really was a major on the staff of Himmler's security police, and thus entitled to a pension.

This list was published in the "Official Journal of the Senate of Berlin" (West Berlin) on April 28th 1954 on page 109 under the title "Register of Former Personnel Officers of Suspended Official Departments". The list showed that a large

number of these former nazi personnel officers are now employed in responsible posts in the West German ministries in Bonn, in the West German police, and in other sections of the West German administration, and on such international bodies as the Montan Union in Luxembourg. The others not so employed were all drawing sizeable pensions.

The list names a total of 145 of these former nazi personnel officers. Here is a small selection, printed exactly as in the original "Official Journal of the Senate of Berlin":

(Name, Position May 8th 1945, Present Address)

Reich Ministry of the Interior

Meyer, Klaus, Gov.-Counsellor, Ministry of the Interior of Schleswig-Holstein.

Schmidt-Hatting, Gov.-Counsellor, Ministry of Finance, Wiesbaden.

Glæzer, Office-Counsellor, Montan Union, Luxembourg.

Reichsführer SS and Chief of German Police

a. Ordinary Police

Vogel, Hans, Police Director, 4 Drusus Strasse, Bingen.

Lemke, Hans, Lieutenant Colonel of Police, 7 Koerner Strasse, Slegen.

b. Security Police and SD (Reichssicherheitshauptamt)

Buskool, Robert, Police Commissioner, 10 Gustav Falke Strasse, Hamburg.

Kiesel, Paul, Police Commissioner, 44 Muenchener Strasse, Ingolstadt.

Erich Krause, Detective Officer, 69 Haupt Straße, Elpersheim.

Reich Ministry of Finance

Burgemeister, Wilhelm, Office-Counsellor, Marshall Plan Ministry, Bonn.

Kriege, Richard, Office-Counsellor, Federal Economic Ministry, Bonn.

Reich Ministry of Labour

Wiegell, Walter, Gov.-Counsellor, Federal Labour Ministry, Bonn.

Unde, Gustav, Office-Counsellor, Federal Labour Ministry, Bonn.

Reich Ministry for Arms and War Production

Wulsch, Paul, Office-Counsellor, 42 Raabe Strasse, Berlin.

Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories

Garbas, Arthur, Office-Counsellor, 30 Max Strasse, Bayreuth.

Meyer, Kurt Gov.-Senior Inspector, 1 Rothenburg Strasse, Brunswick.

Oppermann, Kurt, Government Inspector, 1 Bode Strasse, Braunlage.

Reichsstatthalter in Warthegau Posen (Occupied Poland, ed.)

Schulze, Walter, Gau Administration Inspector, 1 Stendelweg, Berlin.

Carl, Paul, Senior Government Inspector, Sheriff's Office, Ebern, Bavaria.

Sudetenland, Reichsstatthalter in Sudetengau (Occupied Czechoslovakia, ed.)

Helde, Fritz, Gov.-Inspector, 3 Schul Strasse, Seelze. Stracke, Rudolf, Gau Administration Inspector, 23 Forettestrasse, Kaufbeuren.

Buelow, Helmut, Senior Police Inspector, 5 Augusten Strasse, Kiel.

Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia (Occupied Czechoslovakia, ed.) Reich Protector in Bohemia and Moravia in Prague Karschuck, Senior Gov.-Counsellor, Government of Hessen, Wiesbaden.

Frankl, Friedrich, Gov.-Counsellor, 65 Allee Goebel, Luxembourg.

Ministry of the Interior in Prague

Freiherr von Helversen, Mario, Senior Section Counsellor, 10, Eichendorff Strasse, Wiesbaden.

Reichsstatthalter in Westmark and Chief of Civil Administration in Lorraine (Occupied France, ed.)

Goldstein, Erich, Government Inspector, 65 Hornsche Strasse, Detmold.

Koelin, Rudolf, Senior Town Inspector, 14 Von Hensing Strasse, Bad Kissingen.

Police Administration, Metz

Zimmermann, Wilhelm, Police Inspector, 1 Johanngesbruch, Solingen.

Kaufgesuche

Stahlhelme zu kaufen gesucht.
Bartels, Brückstraße 10.

Offers to purchase

Steel helmets wanted.

Bartels, Brueck Strasse 10.

(Advertisement in the "Verdener Aller Zeitung", Verden, West Germany)

"WE ARE QUIT"

All German war crimes have been wiped off the slate, according to West German Minister for Refugees Theodor Oberlaender.

"The expulsion of Germans from the German eastern territories has cancelled all German crimes; we are morally absolutely quits," he

— Says Fascist Minister

stated in a speech in Kassel on November 24th, reported in the official US Government organ "Neue Zeitung", West Berlin, November 25th.

Minister Oberlaender was himself a major in the SA, Hitler's Storm Troops, and Reich Leader of the organisation "Germans in the East".

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In the past three years I have dealt in GERMAN REPORT with what I thought were all possible variants of the anti-East-German propaganda in the western world. But the ingenuity of the liars produces ever new combinations.

Here is the latest, which is perhaps worthy of record. An East German writer was recently in Israel visiting relatives. An acquaintance asked her there: "Do you speak Russian?"

"No", she replied.

"Well, how do you understand the plays in the theatres then?" came the next question.

Quick Tongue

My friend the writer is justly renowned here for her quick tongue and caustic repartee, but this question, she reports, left her gasping for some seconds. Then she managed to ask her interrogator what he meant. "Well, I have read in the papers here that only Russian plays are produced in East Berlin," he explained.

When she had got her breath back the writer managed to explain that all the theatres in East Berlin put on their plays, as anybody might expect, in German. The plays of Chekhov, as well as the plays of Shakespeare, are naturally produced in German translations. She is not sure whether she managed to convince him or not.

But the report of this conversation, and various conversations with recent visitors from Britain and other countries, has reminded me once again that the oddest ideas about conditions in East Germany are still widespread as a result of the unbroken stream of propaganda falsehoods in the big business press.

No Barbed Wire?

Nearly every visitor from Britain, for instance, including many who should know better, is surprised to find that there are no barbed wire entanglements between East and West Berlin, and that there is nothing at all to stop Berliners and visitors from crossing from one half of the city to the other.

I am always very willing to answer questions about conditions here, either direct by letter or in these columns, so send them in.

And do not worry if the questions seem rather silly. If it is a question which is occupying you or any of

your friends, then it is a good idea to get it out into the light of day, and see what truth there is in it, if any.

Since Christmas is just round the corner while I write these lines, I might as well deal here and now

Red Trombones

East Meadow, New York, Nov. 6 (United Press) — Seven trumpets and trombones were brought up for a loyalty hearing Friday before the East Meadow authorities.

The instruments were made in Communist East Germany and the suppliers had recommended them as 'the best-playing low-priced instruments we have'.

School authorities demanded that they be replaced by non-Communist horns after hearing of their origin. "Leader and Press", Springfield, USA, November 7th 1954

with a story that I feel sure will get into some paper somewhere in the next few days. That is the hardy annual: "Christmas trees and Father Christmas are banned in East Germany." As far as I can trace it this story has popped up sometime in December every year since 1945.

The answer to that is that the main feature of the Christmas Fair now in progress on the Marx Engels Platz in East Berlin is a huge Christmas tree ever 100 feet tall; that the fair is swarming with Father Christmases conducting lucky dips and being photographed with little children; and that of course every family with children has its large or small Christmas tree ready to be lit up on Christmas Eve. Other details about the Christmas Fair are given on another page of this issue.

Another story out of the same bag is that Christmas carols are forbidden. If I may be allowed a purely personal reflection, I sometimes wish they were. Every time I turn on the radio, men's voices, women's voices, or piping children's voices are singing "Si-i-i-lent Night", and I turn it off again.

* * *

Winston Churchill's revelation that he had been prepared to rearm the Nazi Wehrmacht in 1945 has received plenty of publicity all over the world. Here is a little personal footnote. About the end of April 1950, when I was working as Chief Correspondent of the British Reuters News Agency in West Berlin, I had a drink with General Sir Charles Keightley, then Commander of the British Army of the Rhine, in the British Press Club in West Berlin.

Monty's Plan

Talk turned to the question of West German remilitarisation, and General Keightley remarked: "I have discussed the whole thing with Monty (Field Marshal Montgomery) and he agrees with me completely that we must set up a German army as soon as possible. Some stupid politicians are still opposed to the plan, but it will not be long now."

In June 1950, when I came to East Berlin in order to make a public protest against the policy of giving arms back to the Nazis, I quoted General Keightley's remark. This infuriated the General, and he issued an official dementi on June 13th 1950 stating

- a) he had not been in Berlin lately;
- b) he had not drunk a cocktail, but only visited the British Press Club in Berlin before lunch;
- c) he had not made such a declaration;
- d) the declaration did not represent his real opinion;
- e) he had not quoted Field Marshal Montgomery.

No Cocktail

I am willing to concede the point that he did not drink a cocktail. As far as I remember he drank a glass of sherry, though it may have been something else.

But he certainly did make the declaration, and since it now appears from Winston Churchill's revelation that Churchill and Field Marshal Montgomery have been planning to rearm the Nazis ever since 1945, it appears to me that General Keightley may now feel at liberty to retract his dementi; otherwise it might look as though he is not in step with the British Government and his superior officers.